institutions of higher learning. Some of the major steps taken in this regard are:

—Revision af pay scales of college and university teachers w.e.f. 1-1-1986. Opportunities provided for training and career advancement for teachers. All-India Eligibility Test introduced to attract best talent to the teaching profession.

—Academic staff colleges established for re-orientation of newly appointed university and college Teachers.

— 27 Curriculum Development Centres in Sciences and Humanities established to modernise curricula. Model curricula has been prepared for 27 disciplines in undergraduate and post-graduate courses.

—Financial assistance provided by UGC for improvement in teaching and research under Special Assistance Programmes, like Centres of Advanced Study, COSIP, COHSSIP, COSIST, etc.

—Inter-University Centres established by UGC to provide front-line facilities and services for advancement of research in the university system.

—Higher priority given to grant of autonomy to selected Colleges and University Departments.

—Guidelines for implementation of an Academic Calendar circulated. These emphasize observance of at least 180 teaching days by Universities|colleges.

—Regulations for minimum standards for the award of first degree, minmum working days etc. notified by UGC.

Core Values in Education

2169. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA. Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state?

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a newsitem captioned "Core values in education urged" as reported in the National Hearald dated 10-11-93;

(b) if so, whether the Chairman Finance Commission has observed that there is general decline in moral standards of education; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Govtrnment in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (KUMARI SELJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. The news-it m appearing in the 'National Herald' dated 10-11-1993 gives an extract of the valedictory address of Shri K. C. Pant, Chairman, Tenth Finance Commission delivered on 8-11-93 at the International Conference on Improving quality of Secondary Education organised by the Council of Boards of School Education in India (COBSE). The observations of Shri K. C. Pant about value-based education at the secondary stage in the valedictory address were made by him on the occasion in his personal capacity and those were not the formal opinion of the Finance Commission.

(c) Does not arise.

केन्द्रीय विद्यालयों में बच्चों के दाखिले हेतु सांसदों का कोटा

2170. **श्री ब्रह्मदेव आनन्द पासवान:** क्या **मानव संसाधन विकास** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि संसद सदस्यों को केन्द्रीय विद्यालय में बच्चों के दाखिले हेतु केवल दो स्थानों का कोटा प्रदान किया गया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार कोटे को कम से कम पांच स्थानों तक बढ़ाने का विचार रखती है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो कब तक और यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय (शिक्षा विभाग तथा संस्कृत विभागों) में उप मंत्री (कुमारी शैलजा) :

(क) जी, हां ।

(ख) जी, नहीं ।

(ग) विशेष छूट से दाखिलों में वृद्धि करने से केन्द्रीय सरकार के स्थानान्तरण कर्मचारियों के बच्चों को प्राप्त होने वाली सीटों में कमी हो जाती है। क्योंकि केन्द्रीय विद्यालय संगठन को सिविल/रक्षा क्षेत्रों के स्थानान्तरणीय कर्मचारियों सहित केन्द्रीय सरकार के स्थानान्तरणीय कर्मचारियों के बच्चों की शैक्षिक जरूरतों को पूरा करने के लिए स्थापित किया गया है, अतः सरकार विशेष छूट देकर दाखिलों की संख्या में वृद्धि करने के पक्ष में नहीं है।

Ropeway near Taj Mahal

2171. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA. Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a ropeway is proposed to be installed near Taj Mahal through a private firm; and

(b) if so, what are the implications involved in so far as the environmental pollution and safety of the monument is concerned besides disturbing its serene out-line particularly in the wake of Supreme Courts intervention on emission from the Mathura refinery?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government is yet to receive the feasibility report in the matter from Agra Development Authority. Any action which adversely affects the environment and the Taj will not be agreed to by the Archaeological Survey of India.

Establishment of Regional Centre of University Grant Commission in Gujarat

2172. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL:

SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) when the State Government of Gujarat has proposed to the Central Government for establishing West Zone Regional Centre of University Grant Commission in Gujarat;

(b) what is latest development in the matter; and

(c) when the said proposal would be finalised?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) In November, 1991, the Chief Minister of Gujarat requested the Govt. of India to set up a regional office of UGC at Ahmedabad or Gandhinagar. According to the information furnished by UGC, the Commission has taken a decision, in principle, to set up its regional offices. The Commission has decided to set up an Empowered Committee to look into the various issues like location of regional offices, requirement of infrastructural facilities, operational framework, etc. An appropriate decision on the matter will be taken soon after the report of the Empowered Committee is submitted to the Commission.